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(r) A village court has been constituted under section 6 (1) of the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888, for the group of Kuthankoil and Settimuthu villages.

(s) The village headman of Kuthankoil was the President of the court, as constituted in 1931.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the Government is aware that while there were two representatives of the Adi-Dravida community in the Panchayat Court as constituted in the past, there are none now?" 11-30 a.m.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not aware of it. Even if I were, Government cannot help it, because as far as I can remember the Government have no power of nominating any member from the Adi-Dravida community."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"May I know whether the Government propose to appoint members from among the Depressed Classes to the Panchayat Court?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not aware as I said whether Government have power of nomination to the Panchayat Court. If they have it, I shall consider my hon. Friend's suggestion."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Is the Government aware that no cheries have been included in the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Court as reconstituted and how is it possible for any member of the Adi-Dravida community to be elected to the Panchayat Court as now reconstituted?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"There are some cheries included in the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Court even according to the present notification."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"May I know whether the reconstitution of the Panchayat Court has been injurious to the interests of the depressed classes?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No, Sir."

Prisons and Prisoners

Quarantine of prisoners received into the Jail.

* 484 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the period for which new prisoners received into the jail are ordinarily kept in quarantine before they are allowed to stay with other prisoners and whether this period was exceeded in the case of Mr. T. P. Alwar of Masulipatam;

(b) the reasons which ordinarily govern transfer of prisoners from one jail to another and what those reasons were in the case of Mr. Alwar for his transfer to Bellary Jail;

(c) how long he was kept in quarantine in the Bellary Jail and whether he was kept there until the expiry of the term of sentence;

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Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi:—" Is it not due to want of butter-milk to him? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" It is not possible for me to say that now."

Law and Order—General

Alleged lathi charge on satyagrahis in Bezwada on 14th November 1932.

* 487 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mannu Kanakaya, Kadiyal Pichaya and six others were severely beaten with lathis when they were peacefully offering satyagraha before the Andhra Ratna Bhavana in Bezwada, on 14th November 1932;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that several of the volunteers fell down unconscious and were dragged by the Police into the Bhavana;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that they were treated in the Government Hospital, Bezwada; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to state from the hospital records as to the number and nature of the injuries received by each;

(*d*) whether any attempt was made to arrest the persons without inflicting injuries on them; and

(*e*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) The eight persons referred to attempted to enter into the Andhra Ratna Bhavan, a place notified and taken possession of under the Unlawful Association Ordinance (IV of 1932) and remaining in the possession of Government. The Police prevented entry into the building. A crowd assembled and in order to prevent a breach of the peace the volunteers were ordered to disperse. On their refusal to disperse, when warned, the volunteers were dispersed by force.

(*b*) In the act of forcible dispersal some of the volunteers fell down and refused to move. They were taken into the building until the arrival of a bus. They did not fall down unconscious.

(*c*) They were rendered first aid in the Government hospital and immediately discharged. The Government have asked the District Magistrate to report the number and nature of the injuries received.

(*d*) As the volunteers refused to disperse and in the opinion of the Police officer in charge there was a danger of a breach of the peace, forcible dispersal was considered to be the best way of dealing with the situation to prevent worse consequences.

(*e*) None.